

International Military Education and Training (IMET) Guidance in Response to COVID

1. Policy for International Military Students (IMS) funded by the International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programs

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are IMS who have been required to remain in the U.S. past the end of their official training. A specific amount of funding was made available through IMET or FMF for those courses, to include travel and living allowance (TLA) funding. However, if the student is required to remain in the U.S. due to travel policy restrictions (either in the U.S. or their home country), they will require additional funding to pay for the ongoing LA expenses.

For IMET funded students, regardless of the year of their program (15R, 18Q, 19I, 19Q, 20I), the Department of State will make available already approved current year IMET funding to support the TLA for the student if no funding is available. In the unlikely scenario where there is no more current year IMET funding available (after de-obligating funds from future training requirements), DSCA needs to come back to State to ask for additional funds by country. The Military Departments (MilDeps), will report the financial requirement for the additional TLA for tracking purposes to DSCA who will send it to State monthly.

For Foreign Military Sales (FMS) blanket order training cases funded with FMF, the same policy will apply, with some differences. If there is unprogrammed FMF that remains on the training line, those funds are to be used for the COVID-19 related TLA costs. If there is no additional funding on the FMS case but there are uncommitted funds in the country's FMF holding account, the MilDep will modify the case in order to add funds for the TLA, in consultation with State to ensure the funds are notified and obligated broadly enough. If there is no uncommitted FMF, DSCA will scrub with the services existing FMF funded case to find unprogrammed FMF that can be shifted to fund the requirements. For countries that have no uncommitted FMF in their holding accounts (and no new FMF being provided in FY 20), Security Cooperation Offices will need to make a request of the government for national funds to be transferred into their holding account to fund the additional TLA costs.

2. Guidance on Duration of IMET funded Courses under COVID-19 Quarantine

To prevent the spread of the virus, the U.S. military services may impose a 14 day quarantine period prior to the initial IMS report date. The IMET program will pay for the additional TLA cost only for courses that are at least four weeks in duration through 2Q FY21. The only exceptions to this policy would be if the partner nation is pays for the TLA associated with the 14 day quarantine or pays all TLA for the course. If schools can combine separate courses to extend the total track to greater than four weeks, IMET will fund the TLA. Also, if courses are converted to a distance learning (DL) option, IMET can continue to fund them.

3. Guidance on Quarantine Period Prior to CONUS Training

While there is no official DoD guidance on quarantine policy upon the resumption of DoD training, there is a reasonable expectation a 14-day quarantine will be required for any student attending a course in CONUS. To ensure IMET funded courses are accounting for this issue, all courses should include a “COVID-19 Quarantine” line that would precede the official course report date by 14 days to capture the required per diem for that period. This line should be programmed for all courses for the rest of FY20 and FY21. If there is further guidance by either Department on related to quarantine for foreign travelers, we will adjust this policy accordingly.

4. Guidance on Mobile Education and Training Teams (METs / MTTs) for the Remainder of FY20 and FY 21 (Q1 & Q2)

While METs and MTTs supported by IMET are a vital tool for education, training, and engagement, the Department expects that U.S. personnel travelling overseas, once restrictions are lifted, may be required to quarantine by the partner nation upon arrival. With that in mind, the Department does not view expending IMET to pay for extended per diem amounts for U.S. personnel remaining in quarantine as an effective use of funds. Therefore, we are instructing Security Cooperation Offices to cancel any METs or MTTs that have been scheduled for the remainder of FY20 and the first two quarter of FY21. If the MET/MET can be converted to a distance learning (DL) option, IMET can continue to fund them.

5. FY20 IMET Funding for English Language Labs

With the unprecedented impact that COVID-19 pandemic, many countries IMET programs have seen significant program impacts. Those impacts have translated into lost courses leaving them with funding that would be recouped during the End-of –Year (EOY) process. As a means to mitigate some of those EOY returns, the Department will allow countries to use IMET funds to procure English Language Labs, books, publications, and associated training. This policy is not meant to be a blanket authorization to shift significant portions of a country’s IMET budget to procure labs. This policy is for countries that have standing requirements that could be addressed earlier than previously planned (e.g., English lab / support planned as part of the FY21 or potentially FY22 IMET program). If a country does not have labs as part of your FY21 program, the Security Cooperation Office must:

- 1) Have had a site survey conducted within the past 5 years;
- 2) Have an English Language Training (ELT) program that is active and supported by the host nation military;

- 3) If the requesting country does not have a language lab programmed in FY20 or FY21, they must provide a justification to DSCA and PM, along with the appropriate COCOM endorsement to include:
 - a. Current status of the country's ELT program;
 - b. Number of active English language labs in country;
 - c. Country plan for staffing and managing the ELT program.

Any language labs and associated materials must be programmed by 1 June.

6. IMET Funding for Lapsed or Non-Inclusive Health Care Insurance for IMS

IMS and their authorized dependents are required have healthcare coverage per the Security Assistance Management Manual (C10.9.1). In the context of COVID-19, there are instances where insurance policies have either lapsed because the student must remain in the U.S. due to travel restrictions and the policy has ended or the insurance does not cover pandemics. In either instance, the U.S. government will consider the funding of medical bills as a result of COVID-19 on a case by case basis, if the IMS meets the following criteria:

1. The IMS must have had insurance for themselves and family member(s) during original period of U.S. training. Proof of policy must be provided;
2. The medical expenses must be directly related to treatment for COVID-19;
3. There is no Foreign Military Sales (FMS) blanket order training case with unprogrammed funding that could pay for such the medical expenses;
4. The partner nation has not provided an indemnification letter to the U.S. stating they would be responsible for any related medical costs;
5. The partner nation has been officially requested, via the Security Cooperation Office, to pay the outstanding medical bill and has officially declined to do so.

If these criteria are met, a formal request must be made to DSCA by the MilDep before any IMET or FMF funding is to be used to pay for the outstanding COVID-19 related medical expenses.